AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-10. (Canceled)

1   11.   (New) An arrangement for distributing IP-addresses in a General Packet
2   Radio Service (GPRS) network, said arrangement comprising:
3   a global processor in the GPRS network that stores a global pool of available IP-
4   addresses; and
5   a plurality of application processors in external networks connected to the GPRS
6   network, each of the application processors being adapted to:
7   store blocks of IP-addresses in an internal pool of IP-addresses, wherein
8   the size of the blocks of IP-addresses in the internal pool of each application processor
9   is dynamically adjusted to minimize the amount of traffic required to request and
10   distribute IP-addresses between the global processor and the application processors
11   while ensuring that a sufficient number of blocks is available to serve all requests for
12   additional IP-addresses;
13   supply an IP-address from the application processor's internal pool to a
14   user upon request; and
15   request an additional IP-address from the global processor when the
16   application processor's internal pool is empty or nearly empty;
17   wherein the global processor is adapted to transfer from the global pool to a
18   requesting application processor, a block of IP-addresses comprising a plurality of IP-
19   addresses in response to a request for an additional IP-address from the requesting
20   application processor.

1   12.   (New) The arrangement according to claim 11, wherein a given application
2   processor is adapted to release a block of IP-addresses to users and notify the global

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3   processor of the release, if the number of IP-addresses in the internal pool of the given

4   application processor exceeds a predefined limit.

1   13.   (New) The arrangement according to claim 12, wherein the predefined

2   limit is equal to two times the size of the block of IP-addresses last received from the

3   global processor.

1   14.   (New) The arrangement according to claim 11, wherein the global

2   processor is arranged to release addresses that have not been used in a preceding

3   interval of time.

1   15.   (New) The arrangement according to claim 11, wherein each application

2   processor is arranged to store the internal pool of IP-addresses in a Random-Access

3   Memory (RAM), and to make back-up copies of the internal pool on a persistent storage

4   medium at regular intervals.

1   16.   (New) An arrangement for distributing resources in a network, said

2   arrangement comprising:

3   a global processor in the network that stores a global pool of available resources;

4   and

5   a plurality of application processors in external networks connected to the

6   network, each of the application processors being adapted to:

7   store blocks of resources in an internal pool of resources, wherein the size

8   of the blocks of resources in the internal pool of each application processor is

9   dynamically adjusted to minimize the amount of traffic required to request and distribute

10   resources between the global processor and the application processors while ensuring

11   that a sufficient number of blocks is available to serve all requests for additional

12   resources;

13   supply a resource from the application processor's internal pool to a user

14   upon request; and

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15   request an additional resource from the global processor when the
16   application processor's internal pool is empty or nearly empty;
17   wherein the global processor is adapted to transfer from the global pool to a
18   requesting application processor, a block of resources comprising a plurality of
19   resources in response to a request for an additional resource from the requesting
20   application processor.

1   17.   (New) A method of distributing IP-addresses in a General Packet Radio
2   Service (GPRS) network, said method comprising the steps of:
3   storing a global pool of available IP-addresses in a global processor in the GPRS
4   network;
5   storing blocks of IP-addresses in an internal pool of IP-addresses in each
6   of a plurality of application processors in external networks connected to the GPRS
7   network, wherein the size of the blocks of IP-addresses in the internal pool of each
8   application processor is dynamically adjusted to minimize the amount of traffic required
9   to request and distribute IP-addresses between the global processor and the application
10   processors while ensuring that a sufficient number of blocks is available to serve all
11   requests for additional IP-addresses;
12   supplying IP-addresses from a given application processor's internal pool to
13   users upon request;
14   requesting by the given application processor, an additional IP-address from the
15   global processor when the given application processor's internal pool is empty or nearly
16   empty; and
17   transferring from the global processor to a requesting application processor, a
18   block of IP-addresses comprising a plurality of IP-addresses in response to a request
19   for an additional IP-address from the requesting application processor.

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